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FLOOR DEBATE

April 1, 2004            LB 1090

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Mr. Clerk, inform the body where we were when we recessed for lunch.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, this morning LB 1090 was under consideration. Senator Brashear had offered AM3477. Senator Chambers had offered FA1648 to the Brashear amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We will now continue debate on the Chambers amendment. Senator Chambers, your light is first.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I'm trying to find a way to be collegial this afternoon. I've thought about it over the noon hour, and here's how we can do it. If we defeat Senator Brashear's amendment, then we go to Senator Janssen's amendment and defeat that, then we could consider moving Senator Hartnett's amendment so Senator Beutler's next one could come up, we defeat that. Then we come to the income tax bill and we raise the income tax. And then I will be very easy to get along with the rest of the day. (laughter) See. See how cheerful everybody is. But on the chance that I'm misreading the body, I think I'd better talk a little bit. There have been some people who are looking with a little less objection to Senator Brashear's proposal, and some are actually...well, at least one is favoring it who was opposed to it before. I had proposed dividing the question, but Senator Brashear made it clear that because of the way this 21-page amendment is structured, it wouldn't be logically possible to divide it. Any bill can be broken into pieces, but in order to divide the question, you should wind up with pieces that can stand alone. Since Senator Brashear has cleverly interwoven all of the constituent elements of his amendment in such a way that you cannot remove one without bringing down the entire thing, that's quite all right. Look at me, listen to me. I have the floor. I insist, pay attention here. Every little distraction is going to make you look somewhere else? My goodness. We're doing the state's business. We're legislating, we're lawmaking. Oh, that's better. So it was not feasible to divide the question, and I told Senator Brashear that what I would do in lieu of that is to offer amendments whose purpose would be to strike each section of his 21-page amendment. That would allow